

ACTION
DC
COMICS

IN THIS
ISSUE:

ACTION-PLUS WITH:
THE ATOM *AND* **THE HUMAN
TARGET!**

20c



ACTION COMICS

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

NO. 425
JULY
30410



5-1503



If you want your parents to get you a Daisy B•B Gun, look at it from their point of view.

We'd like every boy to have the thrill of owning a Daisy B•B Gun. But we want them to be ready. And parents can usually tell if they are.

You see, a Daisy is a B•B gun. It's not a toy. And owning a gun is a big responsibility.

How do your parents know when you're ready?

Usually they can tell by the way you meet other responsibilities. Like picking up after yourself. Or pitching in when there's work to be done.

But if you're ready, a Daisy B•B Gun can be one of the most valuable things your parents ever

give you. Because it doesn't just take responsibility. It teaches it.

It's the best way in the world for a boy to learn marksmanship and proper gun handling.

So, when you think you're ready for a Daisy, talk it over with your parents. Tell them you're ready to take on the responsibility of ownership.

We'll have the right Daisy B•B Gun for you.

Send for "The Air Rifle Marksman." Mail your name, address, and 25c to Daisy, P.O. Box 220, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.



Daisy
SINCE 1886

The B•B Gun every boy dreams about.

Division Victor Comptometer Corporation Rogers, Arkansas 72756

PRESENTING AN **ACTION- PACKED** SUPERMAN SAGA!



IT TRAMPLED OVER
TROPICAL WILDS FOR
MILLIONS OF YEARS--
UNTIL MAN MADE IT
EXTINCT! NOW,
CENTURIES LATER--
HAS IT COME BACK
FOR **REVENGE?**
THE ASTONISHING
ANSWER IS REVEALED
IN--

"THE LAST MOA!" ON EARTH!



"GASP!"

WHAT IN THE
NAME OF--

SOMETHING
LIKE I'VE
NEVER SEEN--
CHARGING
RIGHT AT ME!

STORY: CARY BATES

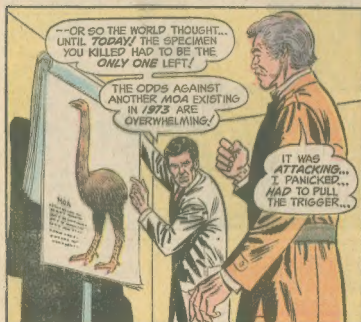
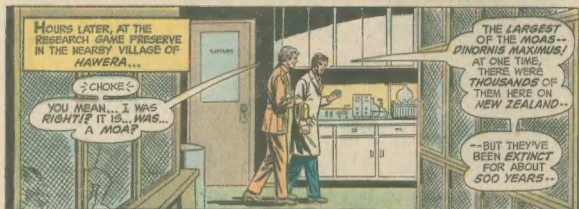
ART: CURT SWAN AND
FRANK GIACIOIA

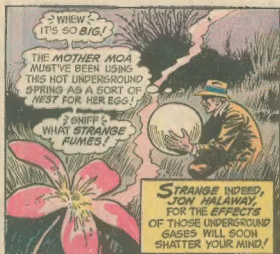
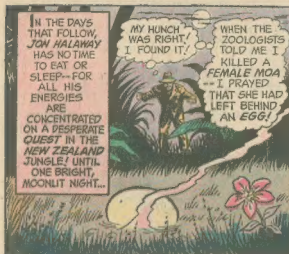
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

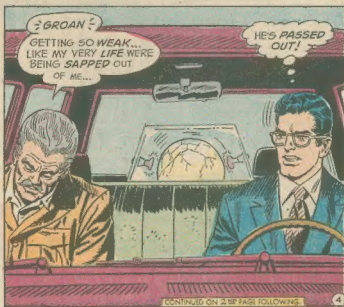
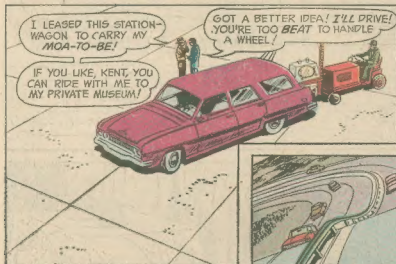
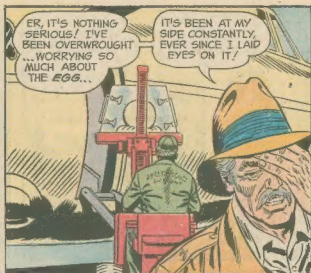
ACTION COMICS, Vol. 36, No. 425, July, 1973. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher, Julius Schwartz, Editor, E. Nelson Bridwell, Assistant Editor, Sol Harrison, Production Manager, Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1973 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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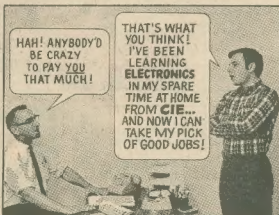






CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

The day Bill told off his boss



**ARE YOU WORKING FOR PEANUTS IN A DEAD END JOB?
GET SMART. SEND FOR 2 FREE BOOKS LIKE BILL DID!**

Be sure to send for your 2 FREE books today. For your convenience, we will try to have a representative call. If coupon has been removed, write to Cleveland Institute of Electronics, Inc., 1775 East 17th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44114

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Veterans and Servicemen:
☐ Check here for G.I. Bill information.



NHSC-05

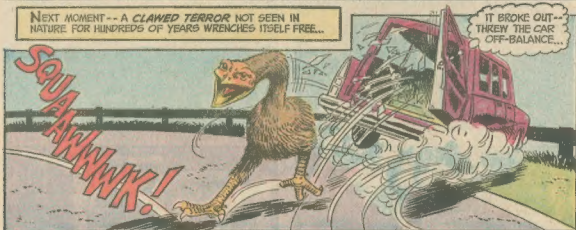
SUDDENLY, CLARK HEARS A BRITTLE NOISE--
FOLLOWED BY A SHATTERING 'OF GLASS...

THE MOA IS
HATCHING--!



NEXT MOMENT-- A CLAWED TERROR NOT SEEN IN
NATURE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS WRENCHES ITSELF FREE...

IT BROKE OUT--
THREW THE CAR
OFF-BALANCE...



SKIPPING WILDLY, THE
SWERVING STATION-WAGON
RAMS THROUGH A FENCE AND
OVER AN EMBANKMENT...

WASN'T POSSIBLE FOR
ME TO KEEP THE CAR
UNDER CONTROL--



AT LEAST
NOT HUMANLY
POSSIBLE--!



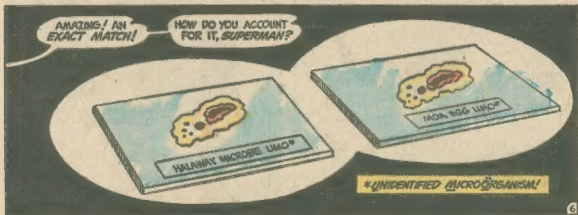
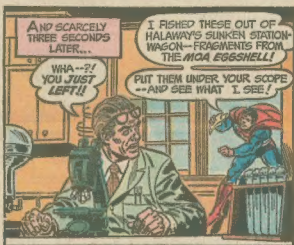
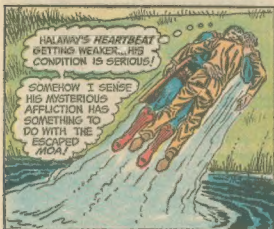
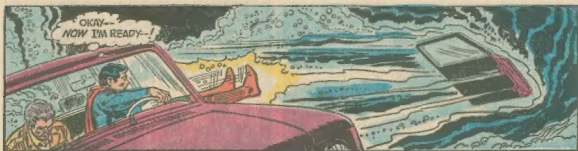
AS THE MURKY LAKE--
WATERS SWIRL AROUND
THE FAST-SINKING FOUR-
WHEEL TOMB...

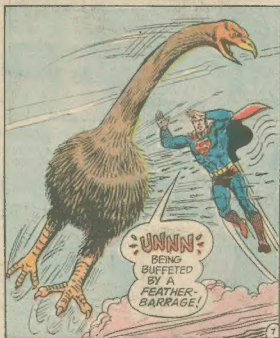
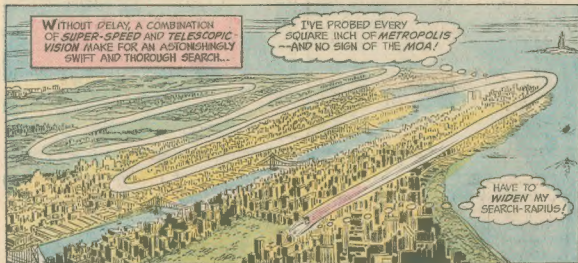
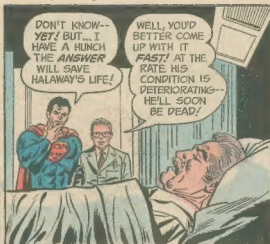
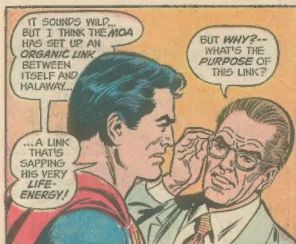
DOWN HERE, OUT
OF SIGHT--

--I CAN TAKE
CONTROL OF THE
SITUATION BETTER
--AS SUPERMAN!

FIRST, A HEFTY
PUFF OF SUPER-
BREATH WILL
KEEP THE AIR
IN AND THE WATER
OUT... UNTIL I'M
READY!



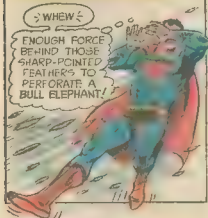




AS THE LETHAL QUILLS
SPLINTER AND SHATTER
AGAINST SUPERMAN'S
IMPENETRABLE SKIN...

WHEW!

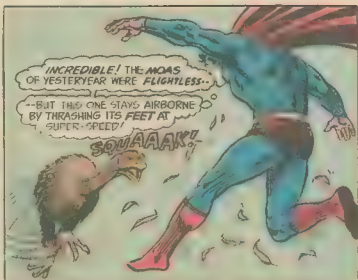
ENOUGH FORCE
BEHIND THOSE
SHARP-POINTED
FEATHERS TO
PERFORATE A
BULL ELEPHANT!



INCREDIBLE! THE MOAS
OF YESTERYEAR WERE FLIGHTLESS..

--BUT THIS ONE STAYS AIRBORNE
BY THRASHING ITS FEET AT
SUPER-SPEED!

SQUAAAK!



NEXT MOMENT, IN THE CLUTCH OF
THE COLOSSAL CLAWS

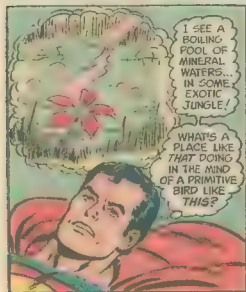
A MENTAL PICTURE
FOCUSING IN MY MIND!

COULD I BE
PICKING IT UP
FROM THE MOA--?!



WHOA!

AUGHT BY A
SLASH-ATTACK!
ITS TALONS ARE
ALSO DEADLY
WEAPONS!



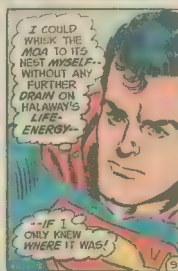
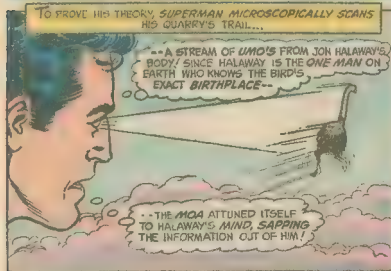
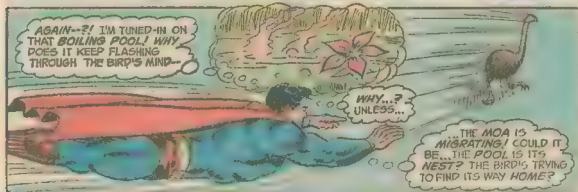
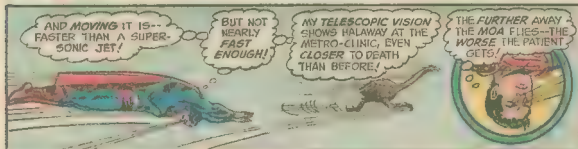
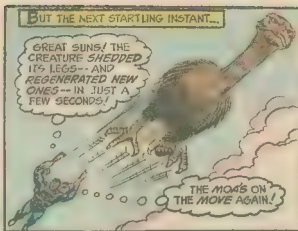
I SEE A
BOILING
POOL OF
MINERAL
WATERS...
IN SOME
EXOTIC
JUNGLE.

WHAT'S A
PLACE LIKE
THAT DOING
IN THE MIND
OF A PRIMITIVE
BIRD LIKE
THIS?



TIME FOR
COUNTER-ATTACK!

NOW I'M THE CLUTCHER
--AND THE MOA IS
MY PREY!



AND THEN--
A RECURRING
DETAIL STIRS
THE METROPOLIS
MARVEL'S
MEMORY...



THAT FLOWER! IT'S
BEEN NEXT TO THE
BOILING POOL EVERY
TIME ITS TELEPATHIC
IMAGE FLASHED
INTO MY MIND!

A FIVE-POINTED
CLUE THAT'S BEEN
BOMBARDING MY
BRAIN ALL THIS TIME!

FASTER THAN A SPARK,
SUPERMAN JLTZ
AHEAD OF THE MOA,
PULLING THE MONSTROUS
BIRD ALONG IN HIS SUPER-
SPEED AIR-STREAM...



THE TELLTALE FLOWER IS
A QUIXA BLOSSOM--
A VERY RARE PLANT FOUND
ONLY IN NORTHWEST
NEW ZEALAND!

THAT HAS TO
BE THE MOA'S
BIRTHPLACE--

...AND MY DESTINATION!

MERE EYEBLINKS LATER, AFTER REACHING
THE EXOTIC JUNGLE...



UNLESS I MISS MY
GUESS, THAT WAS A SQUAWK
OF HAPPINESS FOR A
CHANGE!

THIS IS WHAT THE
MOA INSTINCTIVELY
WANTED ALL ALONG--
TO BE BACK HOME
WHERE HALAWAY FIRST
FOUND ITS EGG!

AND A QUICK X-RAY
SCAN REVEALS...

THOSE
UNDERGROUND
TUNNELS RISING
FROM THE POOL
ARE UNLIKE ANY
OTHER GASES ON
EARTH!

TRY MUST'VE SEEPED
INTO THE EGG TO GIVE
THE MOA THE EXTRA-
ORDINARY POWERS
THAT NEARLY
DOOMED JON
HALAWAY!



SOON AS I CHECK
UP ON HALAWAY--
I'LL ZOOM BACK
AND SET UP A
PROTECTIVE
FENCE AROUND
THE AREA!

THIS WILL BE A
MOA PRESERVE
WHERE THE CREATURE
CAN SAFELY LIVE
OUT ITS DAYS!

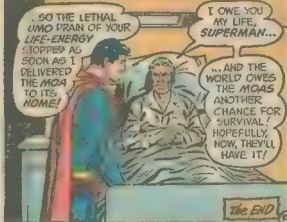


SEVERAL THOUSANDS MILES AND A FEW MOMENTS
LATER...

SO THE LETHAL
UMO DRAIN OF YOUR
LIFE-ENERGY
STOPPED AS
SOON AS I
DELIVERED
THE MOA
TO ITS
HOME!

I OWE YOU
MY LIFE,
SUPERMAN...

...AND THE
WORLD OWES
THE MOAS
ANOTHER
CHANCE FOR
SURVIVAL!
HOPEFULLY,
NOW, THEY'LL
HAVE IT!



The END

Super

BODYBUILDING COURSE -

INTRODUCING

MUSCLES ON YOUR BODY!

At last, NEW bodybuilding secrets are now available for your use. Finally, after years of experimenting we have come up with the fastest muscle building system in the world. Our course really works - thousands have taken our course and have obtained fantastic results. Right in the privacy of your own bedroom, you can completely transform your body.

SEE YOUR MUSCLES GROW DAY BY DAY!

You can have POWERFUL MUSCLES FAST . . . not by years and years of hard work . . . but by simply following our fascinating system . . . a system that works so fast you can see results from day to day! Isn't that the kind of course you want? We absolutely guarantee results.

HERE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE "WORKERS" FOR YOU:

"Wow! I'm making fantastic gains, following your new method of muscle building. I never knew it could be so easy to build muscles!"
J. Johnson

"In just 3 weeks I have gained 1 1/2" on my arms and 4" on my chest. I have also lost 4" off my waist. Your course is just great!"
D. Roberts

"I'm transforming all the fat off my body and changing it into rock-hard muscle. It's amazing. I have lost 8" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day!"
P. Williams

"I have gained 10 pounds in 3 weeks. I have lost 10" off my waist. I can actually see my muscles growing from day to day. I have gained 10" on my arms and 12" on my chest. While losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
M. Robinson

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest. While losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!"
M. Robinson



MORRIE MITCHELL GAINED 65 POUNDS OF MUSCLE WHILE FOLLOWING OUR "REVOLUTIONARY NEW METHODS" ON BODYBUILDING

TAKE YOUR CHOICE! You Can Do This...

- ★ **DOUBLE OR TRIPLE YOUR STRENGTH** in record time! It wouldn't take long before you can perform feats of strength
- ★ **BUILD HUGE GIANT SIZE** muscles - fast! You'll have bulging muscles before you know it.
- ★ **TRIM YOUR WAIST** by following ultra-modern methods. It won't take long before your waist shows washboard abdominal muscles.
- ★ **GAIN WEIGHT** - You can actually gain up to 50 pounds of rock-hard muscle.
- ★ **LOSE FAT** - You'll find it easy to get rid of excess fat and replace it with muscle.
- ★ **FEEL 100% BETTER** - You can't help but feel great once you own a muscular body.

UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING
Box 435, Dept. 5
Dearborn, Mich. 48121

Shoot the "works" to me free! Rush me all that free muscle-building information, so that I can add inches of powerful muscles - all in the privacy of my home. I am sending 25¢ to help cover postage and handling costs. I am under no obligation. (Please print)

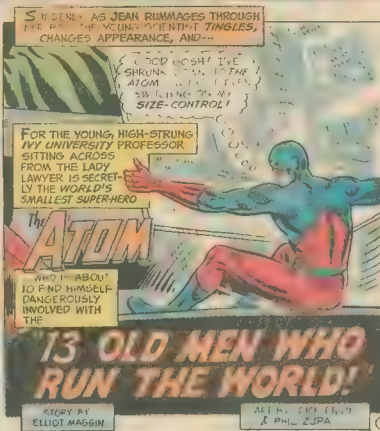
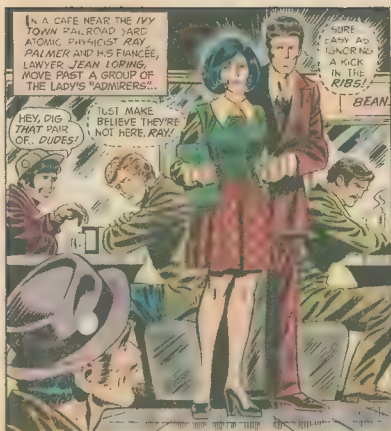
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

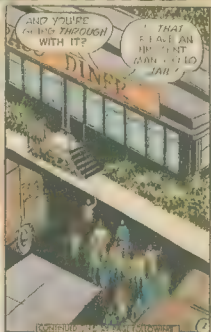
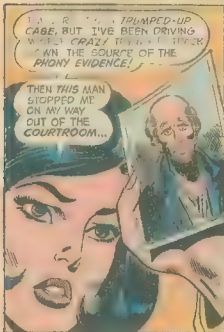
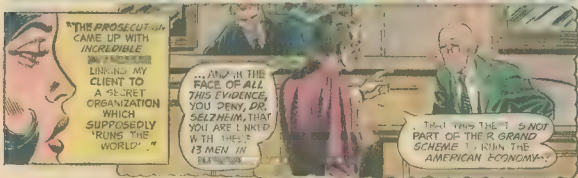
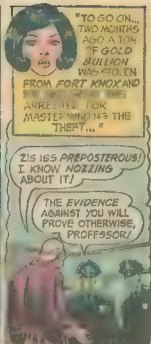
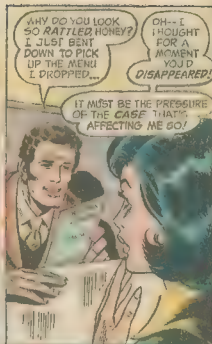
MAIL TODAY

When I enrolled, now I've gained 10 pounds in just 3 weeks. I can't believe it!

B. Abbott







5 NEW

Zap/Action!

KITS FROM MPC



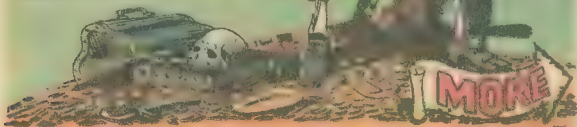
Now . . . something never in model kits before. Zap/Action pirate scenes based on Walt Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean, the most popular attraction in Disneyland. First you build these exciting and detailed scenes . . . then at the touch of a lever . . . release Zap/Action . . . and the pirates perform a variety of surprise actions! And the Zap/Action can be reset and released over and over again!

YES!!

Left behind to guard the treasure, this pirate has plenty of life left in him. He builds up into a great model scene. But watch out! One touch of the button and . . . Zap/Action! His arm ~~unhinges~~ up and he's got the drop on you.

ZAP!

FIGURES IN 1/12 SCALE!



HOIST HIGH THE JOLLY ROGER!

In fantastic detail Captain Villainy with his peg leg upon the king's ransom, preparing to fight all comers. And curses! That's just what happens when . . . Zap/Action! He swings his arm with sword in hand . . . and woe to the treasure hunters

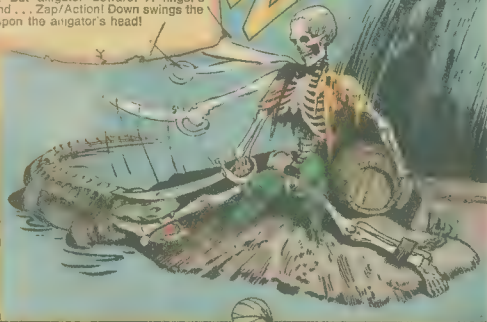
ZAP!



CONDEMNED TO CHAINS FOREVER!

He tried to skip ship, but skip he will no longer. A hard hearted scene with alligator and all. But alligator beware! A finger's touch and . . . Zap/Action! Down swings the sword upon the alligator's head!

ZAP!



With Disney Productions

ALL WITH THE NEW CONCEPT OF zap/action



EATE OF THE MUTNEERS!!

No fate worse than being dumped on a desert island . . . and falling in quicksand! One matey tries to help the other out, but a touch of the Zap/Action! The bighter's up!

DEAD MAN'S RAFT!

Here is a magnificent model scene . . . the remains of a badly battered ship with an old salty seaman behind the wheel. But one slight peek inside the hatch and . . . Zap/Action! Up leaps his angry mate, slamming down upon the treasure map.

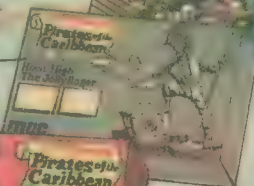


Walt Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean

©Walt Disney Productions

They're blighters and beggars with villainous needs
pursuing a black sheep...uff!
But lives, thus filled with dastardly deeds
and on a

I've slashed the Spanish Main and more
in villainy and plunder
The ladies squeal when I roar



BONUS!

A Jolly Roger
belt badge included
in every kit!

Hoist anchor knaves! Hoist skull and bones
nor shed ye any tears
Cause I'll hoist high the who's boss
the **JOY OF THE MOUNTAIN**

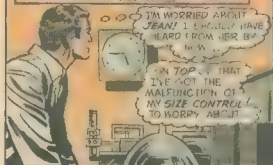
Go pillage and plunder and pilfer and sack
then back to the ships and the sails
But mates remember, while burying the jack,

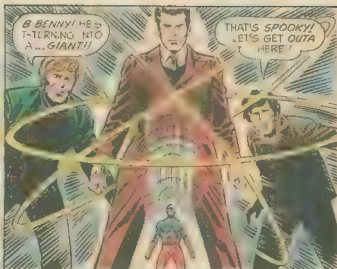
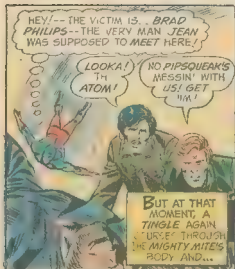
Though loved they might be by their moms and dads
loved by their captains never
the slightest misdeed would they take

126 GROESBECK HIGHWAY MOUNT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN 48043

mpe

RELUCTANTLY, THE PHYSICIST LEAVES THE
LOVELY BARRISTER TO HER RENDEZVOUS!
LATER THAT DAY...





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\$100

Enter the WONDERFUL WORLD OF AMAZING LIVE

Own a BOWLFULL OF HAPPINESS—Instant PETS!

Just ADD WATER—that's ALL! In ONE SECOND your AMAZING Sea Monkeys actually COME TO LIFE! Yes, they hatch instantly, right before your eyes. Now, simply grow and enjoy the most adorable pets ever hatching in ever. Lighter and fun, into your home.

Always clowning around, these frolicsome pets swim, stunt and play games with each other. Because they are so easy to raise, you'll never turn of watching them.

Sea Monkeys are very intelligent. They keep the water so clean, they require only a minimum care. Anyone who enjoys raising pets will find Sea Monkeys a breeze. Best of all, we even show you how to teach them to obey your commands like a pack of friendly trained seals. What a way to surprise your guests.

FREE!
1—A ONE-YEAR SUPPLY of GROWTH FOOD
2—LIVING PLASMA
3—WATER THERMIST
4—A MAGNIFICENT, fully illustrated manual of Sea-Monkey care, raising, training and breeding.
Our famous GROWTH GUARANTEE IN WRITING.

UNICORN HOUSE DEPT 41F
200 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10010
IT SOUNDS GREAT! Please send my Sea-Monkey kit(s) and my FREE supplies and guarantee. I must be 100% satisfied or you will refund my money. I enclose \$1.00 plus 30c shipping charges for each kit.
Send _____ kit(s) ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ Money Order
(No O.D.'s Please) Total amount enclosed \$_____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
☐ SUPER RUSH ORDERS 50c ext. a

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APPROVED
G.I.'S
VETERANS

THESE **3 BIG DRAFTING KITS* GIVEN TO YOU!**

1. Precision Drawing Instrument Set
2. Professional Drafting Board Outfit & Fingerprint Tiling Drafting Table
3. Complete North American Course in Drafting

*Precision Drawing Instrument Set
Professional Drafting Board Outfit & Fingerprint Tiling Drafting Table are given to you with your complete North American Course in Drafting.

... when you train at home with us for a

MINIMUM PAY OF \$10,000 PER YEAR

Big Promotion!
"18 months ago I was a laborer. Now I am foreman of 22 people in the Drafting Room. Thanks for making this possible."
S. D., Mass.
2 Raises and \$300 Bonus!
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AND WHEN RAY
PALMER NEXT SEES
CON...

JEANIE! I CAN
SEE YOU REFLECTED
IN A MIRROR!

MIRRORS
FRAGILE

BUT JEAN
IS NOT ALL
RAY SEES
AS...

AHH, PROFESSOR
PALMER... MISS
LORING--I TRUST
YOU SLEPT WELL!

MIKE, HERE,
HAS KEPT YOU
UNCONSCIOUS
FOR ALMOST
18 HOURS
WAITING FOR
MY ARRIVAL!

DECLEMENTE... THE CRIME-
LORD! WHAT DO YOU
WANT WITH US?

I HAVE A
PROPOSITION
FOR YOU...
WHICH INVOLVES
YOUR HELPING
TO--AHH,
CONVICT HANS
SELZHEIM!--

MY
CLIENT?
NEVER!

VERY
WELL!
MIKE...
TRY TO
KEEP
THE
BLOOD
STAINS
TO A
MINIMUM!

MY HANDS TIED
IN SUCH A WAY,
I CAN'T CLICK
ON MY SIZE-
CONTROL... BUT
I JUST REALIZED
SOMETHING THAT
MAY WORK IF
I STALL
DECLEMENTE!

WAIT!-- WHY ARE
YOU DOING THIS?

I MAY AS WELL TELL YOU!
SELZHEIM FOUND HIMSELF
IN THE WRONG PLACE AT
THE WRONG TIME!

THE PUBLIC HAS BEEN
GETTING INCREASINGLY
AWARE OF-- UHH,
ORGANIZED CRIME...
SO WE NEEDED A SCAPEGOAT!

WE STOLE
THE GOLD
JUST SO WE
COULD GET
THE PUBLIC
PARANOID
OVER 13
NON-EXISTENT
OLD MEN IN
GENEVA WHO
"RUN THE
WORLD"!

B-BOSS!
THE
PROFESSOR
GUY... HE'S
DISAPPEARED!

AT THAT
VERY
MOMENT,
A MIGHTY
MITE IS
SCURRYING
ACROSS
THE
WAREHOUSE
FLOOR...

HOW'D HE
VANISH INTO
THIN AIR LIKE...

B-BOSS-- I'M
LOSING MY
BALANCE!

WATCH--

OUT!

WHEN DECLEMENTE
SAID WE'D BEEN KEPT
UNCONSCIOUS FOR
18 HOURS, I REALIZED
IT WAS ALMOST NOON!

--AND I REMEMBERED THAT
MY SIZE-CONTROL WENT OUT
OF WHACK YESTERDAY AT NOON
AND SIX IN THE EVENING...

...AND THAT IVY TOWN
HAD JUST INSTALLED
NEW NOON AND SIX
O'CLOCK WHISTLES!

I PLAYED A HUNCH
THAT THE SOUND-WAVES
SOMEHOW TRIGGERED ON
MY SIZE-CONTROL!

NOW THAT I'VE ISOLATED
THE PROBLEM, I CAN
SOLVE IT! BUT FIRST
TO FREE JEAN!

ATOM!--AM
I GLAD YOU
SHOWED UP!

BUT WHAT
HAPPENED
TO RAY
VALMER?

WITH THAT, THE
ATOM VANISHES
AS QUICKLY AS
HE APPEARED.

BEHIND THIS
CRATE, JEANIE!

RAY--RAY,
WHERE
ARE YOU?

I--ER, MADE
IT LOOK AS
IF HE
DISAPPEARED
--TO START!
DECLEMENTE!

...WITH
MIRRORS!
RAY WILL
EXPLAIN!
GOTTA
GO NOW!

AND AFTER THE POLICE TAKE THE CRIME-CHIEF AND HIS HENCHMAN INTO CUSTODY

NOW THE HOAX BEHIND THE "13 OLD MEN IN GENEVA WHO RUN THE WORLD" WILL BE EXPOSED!

--AND DR. SELZHEIM WILL GO FREE!

BUT, RAY-- I WISH YOU'D TELL ME ONE THING...



...DID THE ATOM AND IT SEEM AS IF IT DISAPPEARED?

MAGIC, HONEY...

VERY FUNNY-- ONLY I'M NOT LAUGHING!



YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY,

A MAGICIAN CAN'T GIVE AWAY HIS SECRETS!

"THEY" SAY THAT? AND JUST WHO ARE "THEY"?



YOU KNOW, HONEY... THE 13 OLD MEN IN GENEVA WHO MAKE UP TRITE REMARKS!

OH, RAY...

I'LL TELL YOU SOMEDAY, JEAN... SOMEDAY REAL SOON!

THE END

COMING SUPER ATTRACTIONS!

IN THE AUGUST

SUPERMAN [#266]

THE MAN OF STEEL FIGHTS FOR THE LIFE OF EARTH AGAINST...

"THE NIGHTMARE MAKER!"

*** **EXTRA!** ***

"The FACE OF THE FALLEN STAR!"

[ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAY 3RD]

IN THE AUGUST

[#266]

ACTION-PLUS with

SUPERMAN IN "MASTER OF THE MOON ROCKS!"

GREEN ARROW IN "THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS!"

THE HUMAN TARGET IN "The SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS!"

[ON SALE ON OR ABOUT MAY 31ST]

SUPERMAN IN ACTION

S-1515

Dear Julie, Cary, Elliot, Curt, Murph, Sal and Dick (when?)

Riddle "When is a rip-off not a rip-off?" Answer "When it's a Cary Bates tribute to the man Bill Blackbeard called 'the first (arf, arf) super-hero of them all!'" And what a tribute! Without emasculating the character ("Captain Strong," indeed!), Cary rendered a script (in *Action* #421) that retained its dramatic flavor. But above all, Cary remembered rule number one of the comic: "Don't take yourself too seriously." He didn't. It worked. And, thanks to a top-notch Swan-Anderson art job, I am awed. I wonder why, sadly, a story of this type isn't dynamic enough (translation: "flashy enough") to win a *Shazam* award. I sit here, *pop-eyed*. (Ouch! Well, you didn't think a confirmed punster like myself would part without that one, did you?)

Now for the *Green Arrow* story. It seems that I have been to Elliot Maggin lately what Mark Lucke is to Cary Bates. As I have said before, Elliot proved to us in the past that he was a fan with a great term paper. Now he's proving to us that he's a highly competent pro. With a few more scripts like this *GA* story, there'll be little more proof needed. Elliot has *got* the editorially self-important and slightly daff human hero we've all clamored for in *GA* . . . and he's got only Dennis O'Neil could give us. The fact that *Ollie Queen* is as brash and full of banter as his alter-ego is heartening to this hater of mild-mannered jellyfish who make super-swift changes to *ta-ta-taa!* (*trahperwowirzowie* magnificent-man)

And guess what? You know that "feel" for *GA* we all said Neal Adams has? Well, Dick Giordano's got it too—in his inking of Sal Amendola's pencils.

All in all, kudos all around.

Roger Klorese, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(We are glad ya liked Cary's tribute to that certain sailor-man. When I was a little kid, Popeye was me hero. Of course, then was the days before Superman. Arf, arf! -E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

When I saw *Action* #421, I simply had to write you. And do you know why?

To blast you, you clowns!

Not since those atrocious *Red Kryptonite* stories have I seen such a ridiculous situation. Why didn't you just title it "Superman versus Popeye the Sail-

or-Man"? The resemblance was ludicrously obvious. Who does Superman meet next, a flying, super-strong mouse?

Harvey Phillips, Houston, Tex

(Don't be ridiculous! This issue, he meets a flying, super-powered moa! The flying, super-strong mouse was the one he met many years ago, in a Superboy story—"*The Adventures of Krypto-Mouse*."—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

"The Fantastic Feats of Captain Strong" was a deceptively simple title for one heckuva good story. It possessed an element only recently revived in *Superman* comic: satire. In *Action* #421, we have *Billy Anders* (we all know Billy, he's *Everybody*) playing *Batman* and being saved from disaster by a one-eyed sailor who just happens to get his powers from a green vegetable. One wonders why Curt Swan forgot the corn-cob pipe. I hope Cary Bates continues to produce stories like "Captain Strong," because satire gives a certain latitude to *Superman's* character. For all his majesty, *Supie* shouldn't take himself too seriously.

In the self-same issue, we have a character who has made a name for himself by taking himself seriously. Sure *Ollie Queen* jokes for a very good reason. For a "gimmick" super-hero ("I'm only human, lady . . .") to save the crowd from the fire was a tall order. Yet *Green Arrow* is no mere "gimmick" hero. He is a realistic swashbuckler, whether archer *Arrow* or "shadow" *Queen*. In these past few, tense years, *GA* has come from a flat, green scribble to a man with as many dimensions as authors O'Neil and Maggin choose to give him. To say the least, "The Headline Maker" is just what *Green Arrow* has become!

Keith Partain, Tulsa, Okla.

(From arf wines to headlines—that's our Ollie for you!—E.N.B.)



And before we go, here's a reminder that the address for your comments is SUPERMAN IN ACTION, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave New York, N.Y. 10029

read

D.C.'s
BEST

ON SALE
APR. 24

DC THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM... 20c

THE HOUSE OF SECRETS

THIS IS CALLED "RANDORI".
MEANING "PLAY".



IT IS AN EXERCISE



--AN OPPORTUNITY TO
PRACTICE--

--BUT, I'VE BEEN LEARNED--



--FROM
THE
SENSEI



"WHICH, IN JAPANESE
MEANS "TEACHER"

--BUT WHEN YOUR NAME IS
CHRISTOPHER CHANCE--
AND THEY CALL YOU --

THE LITTLE MAN TARGET

--YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO
"PLAY"! YOU HAVE TO BE
GOOD--EVEN BETTER
THAN YOUR TEACHER--
BECAUSE SOME DAY--FOR
ANY STRANGE REASON--
THE MIGHT NOT BE AN
EXERCISE--

--AND THAT TEACHER MAY
WELL BE TRYING TO
KILL YOU!



LEN WEIN
WRITER --
NEAL ADAMS
DICK GIORDANO
ARTISTS --
JILLUS SCHWARTZ
EDITOR --

7% SHORT-WALK-TO-DISASTER CONTRACT!

PLEASE #1 I have a Coupon In the Business!

AS THE SENSEI AND I FINISHED, I HEARD LUIGI ENTER AND SAY: "I AM AN ANXIOUSNESS-NESS IN MY OLD FRIEND TID, I'VE NEVER BEFORE NEEDED..."

SIGNOR CHRIS-- PLEASE--I NO MEAN TO INTERRUPT-- BUT I MUST TALK TO YOU, --URGENT!

I APOLOGIZED TO THE DEPARTING SENSEI-- THEN TURNED TO LUIGI...

I NEED HELP, SIGNOR CHRIS-- SOMETHING ONLY YOU CAN DO--!

IN A MOMENT, JUST-- PLEASE!

I WANT TO HIRE YOU-- TO POSE AS MY COUSIN!

WHAT USE WOULD YOUR RELATIVE HAVE? OR THE SERVICES OF A PROFESSIONAL "VICTIM"?

"SOMEDAY, HIS PRIDE--IT HAD TO BRING HIM TROUBLE."

MY COUSIN, ANTONIO-- HE'S A PROUD, ANGRY MAN--

BE REASONABLE, ANTONIO! THE MORGAN SYNDICATE IS OFFERING US TWICE WHAT THIS FLEA-BITTEN CIRCUS IS WORTH!

I'M SORRY, MARTIN-- BUT THIS SHOW IS MY LIFE! I'M NOT GOING TO SELL!

ALL WE NEED IS PUBLICITY-- SOMETHING TO BRING US TO PEOPLE'S ATTENTION--

SOMETHING LIKE WALKING ACROSS NIAGARA FALLS-- ON A TIGHTROPE!

NOW, KNOW YOUR CRAFT, ANTONIO! ALL THAT WOULD GET YOU A BROKEN NECK!

"AND THIS PARTNER, HE MUST HAVE REALIZED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ANTONIO DID SUCCEED-- BECAUSE, ALL OF A SUDDEN, THERE STARTED TO BE ACCIDENTS AT THE CIRCUS."

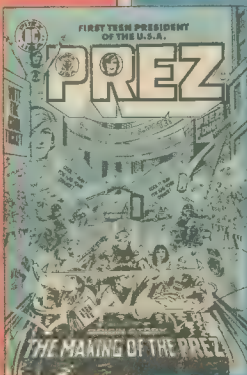
BUT, ANTONIO-- HE INSISTED! HE BET HIS PARTNER HALF THE CIRCUS THAT THE WALK WOULD SUCCEED!

--ACCIDENTS THAT HAVE JUST MISSED KILLING ANTONIO TWICE!

CONTINUE ON 298 PAGE FOLLOWING

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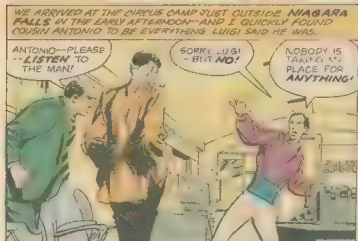
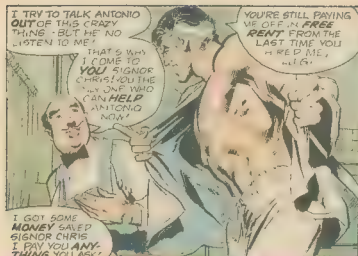
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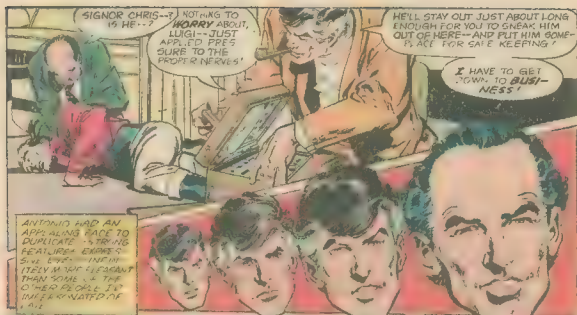
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'SIGNOR CHRIS--? IS HE--?'

'NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, LUGI-- JUST APPLIED PRESSURE TO THE PROPER NERVES!'

'HE'LL STAY OUT JUST ABOUT LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO SNEAK HIM OUT OF HERE--AND PUT HIM SOMEPLACE FOR SAFE KEEPING!'

'I HAVE TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!'

ANTONIO HAD AN APPALING FACE TO DUPLICATE--STRONG FEATURES--EYES--SILVER--EYES--INFINITELY MORE ELEGANT THAN SOME--THE OTHER PEOPLE IN THE ENTERTAINED OF...

BY EVENING, I WAS THE GREAT ANTONIO--AND I WAS LIVING THE PART WITH GUSTO...

--AND SUDDENLY, I FELT VICTIM TO ANOTHER TERRIBLE--ACCIDENT--

THE SOFT WHISTLE HAD BARELY ALERTED ME IN TIME TO TURN MY HEAD--

--BUT WHEN ONE IS STRUCK EVEN A GLANCING BLOW FROM A SOLID OAK INDIAN CLUB--

--THERE IS LITTLE ELSE TO DO-- BUT FALL!

OF COURSE, ONE KNOWS PRECISELY HOW TO FALL--

THINGS WENT QUITE WELL UNTIL I CHECKED THE HIGH-WIRE RIGGING IN THE BIG TENT--

--THAT NEED NOT NECESSARILY PROVE FATAL!





BELOW
ZING

WHOEVER
THAT GUY
IS, HE'S
GOOD!

HE HAS ME
SO BUSY DUCK-
ING I HAVEN'T
BEEN ABLE TO
GET A LOOK AT
HIS FACE!



BUT THAT
SITUATION
IS ABOUT TO
CHANGE!



THOSE RIDES
HAVE GIVEN ME
JUST THE EDGE
I NEED--

--AND IT WON'T TAKE
ME LONG TO CLOSE
THE GAP BETWEEN
US!

GOT TO MOVE
--REALLY FOUR
ON THE SPEED--!



HE'S LOSING
GROUND--
FAST!

JUST HAVE TO CLOSE
IN ON HIM ONCE WE
ROUND THAT CORNER
AND--



THAT'S FAR
ENOUGH, MR.
CHANCE! I
SAID NOBODY
WOULD
REPLACE
ME--

--AND I
MEANT
IT!



I'M GOING
TO STOP
YOU, MR.
CHANCE--
ONE WAY OR
ANOTHER!

NEXT ISSUE!
CONCLUDING
"THE SHORT-
WALK-TO-
DISASTER
CONTRACT!"

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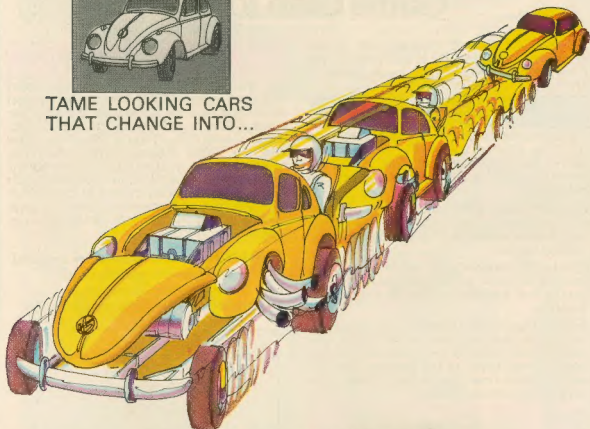
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